EDUCATION OF NOISE-EXPOSED PERSONNEL

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EDUCATION OF NOISE-EXPOSED PERSONNEL

Overview

- Objectives of HCP education
- HCP Education Content
- Responsibilities
- How to Accomplish Education
- Failure Factors
- Frequency of Training

WHO NEEDS HEARING CONSERVATION EDUCATION??

- Anyone routinely exposed to hazardous noise
  - Active duty and Civilian
  - Flying and non-flying
  - Contractors?
- Workers and Supervisors

OBJECTIVES OF EDUCATING NOISE EXPOSED PERSONNEL

- **PREVENT** noise-induced hearing loss
- **MOTIVATE** workers to protect their own hearing
- Promote **SELF-DISCIPLINE**

WHAT NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED IN EDUCATION??

- Effects of noise exposure
- Recognition of hazardous noise
- Report potential noise problems
- Report problems with PPE

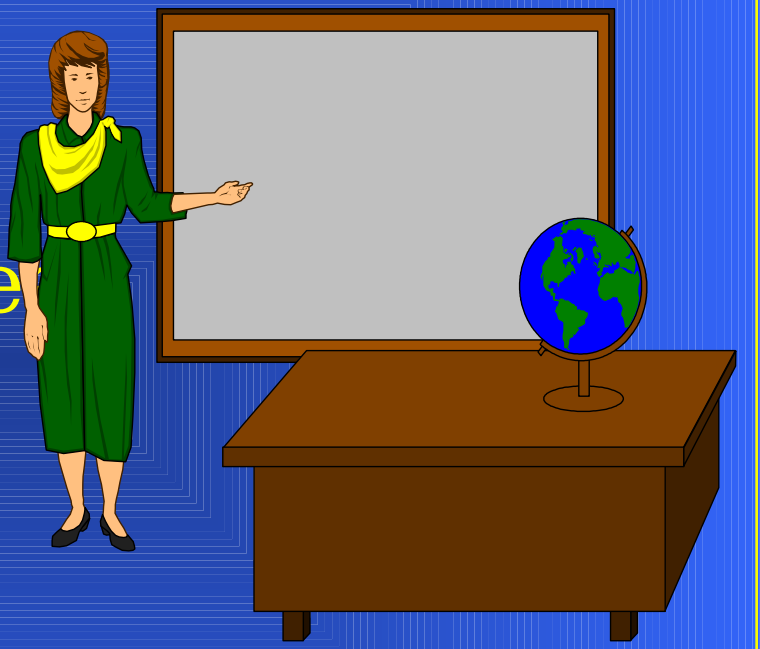
WHAT NEEDS TO BE INCLUDED IN EDUCATION??

- Proper use and care of hearing defenders
- HCP requirements
  - Purpose of testing
- Need to protect ON and OFF the job
- Individual responsibility

Truthful Health Education

- Hearing is neither fragile nor delicate
- Not easily damaged
  - takes many overexposures for serious hearing loss
  - NIHL typically from repeated low dose, cumulative, life-time exposures
- Lawn mowers, gunfire, rock concerts, jets
- Do not mislead - you lose credibility!!!

Truthful Health Education



- Availability - plan ahe
  - Skeet shooting
  - Motorcycle riding
  - Weed eating
  - Mowing the lawn

Truthful Health Education

- MANDATORY in Hazardous Noise Areas!
- Analogous to Wearing Seatbelts
- Everyone has to do it…
- New Workers accept the rul
  - less hassle
  - more positive self acceptance
  - the ***"thing to do"***

Truthful Health Education

"But, it's too late for me. I've already lost my hearing."

- Tragic mistake in logic
- It can get worse!
- The initial 25-35 dB loss

vs.

The next 5-10 dB

- GET VIGOROUS ON EDUCATION and proper, consistent PROTECTION!!!!!!!!!!!

WHO EDUCATES

- PH:
  - Initial education & training
  - Advise of the protection afforded by the earplug alone and the possible need to wear ear muffs
  - Advise supervisors of requirements to annual training
  - Provide technical assistance as requested
  - Provide annual training to supervisory personnel
  - Visit shops with unusual numbers of STS to ensure training is being accomplished

WHO EDUCATES

- Supervisors:
  - Educated about the HCP
  - Educated about THEIR responsibilities
    - Responsible for workers' actions
    - Enforce compliance
    - Set the example
    - Ensure appointments kept
    - Annual and continuous training

ACCOMPLISHING HEARING CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- Classes
- Brochures & handouts
- Computer-based instruction
- Informal walk-throughs
- Briefings
- Any chance you get
- Set the example

HCP EDUCATION FAILURES

- Poor HPD selection or availability
- Mandatory HPD compliance neither adopted nor enforced
- Less than adequate educators
- Medical specialists embrace “clinical” rather than “preventive” philosophy
- Failure to establish “appreciation of hearing” as foundation of HCP program

HCP MOTIVATION FAILURES

- A compromise at best
- Not necessarily comfortable
- Have to convince people that the benefit far outweighs the discomfort

FREQUENCY OF HEARING CONSERVATION EDUCATION

- Initial
- Annual
- Follow-up
- Continuous*

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Review

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